

Appln No. 10/706,024
Amdt date February 13, 2007
Reply to Office action of October 13, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5 and 6 to place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance.

In the October 13, 2006 Final Rejection, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 either under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Griffin, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,870)("Griffin") with evidence from Davies, et al., "The Rate Dependence of Confor Polyurethane Foams," Cellular Polymers, vol. 18, no. 2 (1999) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Griffin. In so rejecting, the Examiner asserts that Griffin discloses "a ring electrode having a proximal portion which forms a flared skirt." However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite a ring electrode having a proximal portion comprising a *pre-formed* flared skirt and that the pre-formed flared skirt tapers outwardly and proximally beginning at about a midpoint of the ring electrode. Applicant has also amended claims 5 and 6 to recite a pre-formed skirt to be consistent with the language of amended claim 1. Griffin and Davies fail to teach or suggest such a feature. Rather, Griffin discloses a metal sleeve or band that is threaded onto the catheter body and then crimped at its proximal end to facilitate gripping of the catheter body. See Column 4, line 61 through column 5, line 6. Indeed, the Examiner appears to admit that Griffin fails to disclose a ring electrode having a proximal portion comprising a pre-formed flared skirt. See Office action, page 5. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 1-9, are allowable over Griffin and Davies.

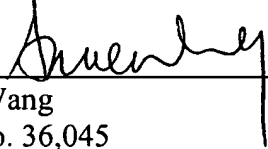
The Examiner also appears to argue that Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 2,286,097) "shows forming a flared skirt on a cylindrical metal terminal to be attached to a conductor." Office action, page 5. However, Johnson also fails to teach or suggest a ring electrode having a proximal portion comprising a *pre-formed* flared skirt and that the pre-formed flared skirt tapers outwardly and proximally beginning at about a midpoint of the ring electrode, as recited in

Appln No. 10/706,024
Amdt date February 13, 2007
Reply to Office action of October 13, 2006

amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-9, are allowable over Johnson.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Anne Wang
Reg. No. 36,045
626/795-9900

LES/les

LDB PAS723376.1-* -02/13/07 1:57 PM